

**REMARKS**

**Paragraphs 1 through 6 of the final Office Action**

Claims 1 through 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dumenigo in view of Walton et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to require, in part, “wherein said peripheral wall has a generally rectangular horizontal cross sectional shape with a pair of side wall portions and a pair of end wall portions” and “wherein each of said guides is positioned closely adjacent to one of said side wall portions and being spaced from each of said end wall portions”. The positioning of the guides with respect to the side wall portions and the end wall portions, with the guides being spaced from the end wall portions along the side wall portions is submitted to provide greater support for the panel, especially toward the middle of the panel when the panel is supporting objects such as clothes.

In contrast, the Dumenigo patent discloses an “article support” with a platform (110) that is supported by springs (112) and posts (120) that are located at the corners of the side wall means (104) where the wall sections converge together. With one pair of the wall sections being longer than the other pair of wall sections, the portions of the platform located along the relatively longer wall sections are placed under greater stress than the portion of the platform located along the relatively shorter wall sections, which can lead to bending or sagging of the platform along the relatively longer wall sections. In light of what Dumenigo shows, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the Dumenigo patent, would be led to positioning posts and springs at the corners of the platform, especially when the posts protrude through the platform and would interfere with the sponge on the platform if the posts were for some reason moved inwardly from the corners.

However, unlike the Dumenigo structure, the claimed invention requires that the guides be adjacent to the relatively longer side wall portions and be spaced from the

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relatively shorter end wall portions, which facilitates the support of the panel along the longer sides of the panel, especially when carrying large amounts of clothes.

The Walton patent shows a platform (40) that is supported by legs (42) that are substantially centrally mounted on the platform, and separated from the edge of the platform and the wall of the receptacle portion (20). It is therefore submitted that the Walton patent would not correct the defects of the Dumenigo patent with respect to the claimed invention.

For these reasons, it is believed that the remaining claims are in allowable form and the application respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

### **CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early consideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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